

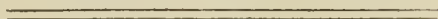


Pinelus longifolia

PIMELEA linifolia.

Flax-leaved Pimelea.DIANDRIA MONOGYNIA. *Fl. inferior, of one petal, regular.*GEN. CHAR. *Cal.* nullus. *Cor.* quadrifida. *Stamina* fauce inferta. *Nux* corticata, unilocularis.*Cal.* none. *Cor.* four-cleft. *Stamina* inferted into the orifice. *Nut* coated, of one cell.SPEC. CHAR. *P. foliis lineari-lanceolatis, capitulis terminalibus involucratis, corolla extùs villosa.*

Leaves linear-lanceolate. Heads of flowers terminal, furnished with an involucre. Corolla hairy on the outside.



THIS elegant shrub flowered in the greenhouse of Lord Viscount Lewisham, in February 1794. The same

species flowered the preceding year at Sion House. It is a native of the coast of New South Wales, among rocks, as we believe are all the species of *Pimelea*. The genus was first published by Forster in his *Nova Plantarum Genera*, and there called *Bankfia*; but every species of which it is composed having been referred by the younger Linnæus to *Passerina*, and he having in the same work named another tribe of plants after Sir Joseph Banks, Gærtner, in restoring the original genus of Forster, adopted the name of *Pimelea* from the manuscripts of Dr. Solander. It is derived from *πιμελη*, fat, but is rather a pleasantly sounding, than a very apt denomination, unless there may be any thing oily in the recent fruit. In natural affinity *Pimelea* nearly approaches *Passerina* and *Daphne*, but their number of stamina being so very different, surely justifies us in keeping it separate from them. In this natural order we are not yet indeed quite clear upon what principles genera ought to be discriminated, and therefore dare not undertake to remove the great uncertainty in which all authors have left them.

Pimelea linifolia has a small zigzag root, from which arises a straight round smooth upright stem, branched irregularly for the most part, though sometimes appearing dichotomous, in consequence of the young branches springing in pairs from the upper part of the old flowering ones. The bark is reddish, cracking longitudinally; its inner layer remarkably silky, which is

characteristic of this natural order. *Leaves* clothing the younger branches, opposite, on very short footstalks, slightly spreading, linear-lanceolate, varying much in breadth, sharpish, entire, with a simple nerve. *Stipulae* none. *Flowers* in terminal heads, numerous, inodorous. *Braçteæ* four broad ovate entire leaves, close to the flowers. *Corolla* very slender, tubular, snow-white, silky externally; the *limb* in four equal ovate spreading segments, with a red spot at the base of each within side. *Stamina* two, their filaments rather shorter than the limb, and inserted into the base of two of its segments, so that they are altogether without the tube, and not within it as in *Daphne*, *Passerina*, &c; *antheræ* oblong, yellow. *Germen* superior, oval, green, very small, smooth; *style* rather longer than the tube, simple and capillary; *stigma* capitate, very small. *Fruit* a small oval dry berry or rather *drupa*, invested with the permanent base of the corolla, and containing a solitary hard seed or nut. *Common receptacle* clothed with numerous white permanent hairs.

EXPLANATION OF TAB. XI.

1. A Flower entire. 2. The same opened, to shew the stamina and style. 3. Pistillum. 4. Common receptacle after the fruit has fallen. 5. Fruit invested with the permanent base of the corolla. 6. Fruit naked.